

2013 Needs Assessment for Covington County

Honorable Frank 'Trippy' McGuire
Covington County Courthouse
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Accomplishments

- The Covington County Children's Policy Council Coalition (CCCPCC) is currently in the 4th year of a Drug Free Communities Grant, which provides the majority of our funding for area drug prevention projects and activities.
- The CCCPCC started off the year with a Strategic Planning Meeting on October 30, 2012, at the LBWCC Child Development Center located in Andalusia.
- In Fall 2012, the Pledge and Patch Program was given to youth participating in Andalusia and Opp sports and recreational programs.
- The Religious Leader's Symposium (RLS) was held November 1, 2012, at Power South providing area youth ministers and pastors with the latest Pride Survey results. The ministers are then able to take this information to their own congregations and helping the Coalition to make Covington County parents aware of youth substance abuse. Judge Frank 'Trippy' McGuire and counselor Brent Cosby were the speakers.
- In Fall 2012, the ABC Enforcement Division performed additional compliance checks on alcohol retail outlets.
- On March 5, 2013, Jason Williams with Healthy You, Inc. lead about 150 Peer Helpers from all 6 high schools in Covington County, in a 'Youth Leadership Conference.' The conference was held at the Kiwanis Building. Mr. Williams focused on leadership qualities, engaging students in both conversation and activities.
- The Covington County Drug Task Force and the District Attorney's Office also gave several K.A.P.P.'s (Kids Against Prescription Pills) presentations to middle school students in our county

during Spring 2013. The K.A.P.P.' program is presented in a format that is extremely popular with middle school students and teachers.

- Three Prescription Pill Take Back programs were held in Fall 2012 in Andalusia, Opp, and Florala. The CPC partnered with the Drug Task Force, area hospitals and pharmacies, and the Alabama Clean Water Partnership.
- The YES (Youth Enrichment Services) Program students attended the Employment Training Conference through CCCEPD and the Interview Advantage Workshop held by PowerSouth, LBWCC and the Chamber of Commerce. Students also toured several local companies and learned of the importance of their actions on social media sites and drug testing.
- The Employment Training Conference was held on April 3, 2013. Employers from local companies were present to discuss their companies and hiring practices with students. Other community members also provided instruction relating to employment. There were 97 students in attendance.

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First Priority

Need related to children of this county

- Reduce alcohol and drug use among 6th-12th grade students.

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant:• Pledge and Patch Program where athletes voluntarily sign pledges to remain alcohol and drug free and also exhibit a healthy life-style to their peers.• Peer Helper Programs in all 6 high schools in our county whereby students are trained to be community advocates against substance abuse. These students present anti-substance abuse messages to their fellow high school peers and middle school students.• Continuing a 'Get Real' poster campaign within each high school. This is a counter-advertising campaign using current PRIDE Survey results to promote the message that not all students are using drugs.• Continuing promoting the Department of Public Health's FOCUS program in all 6 high schools, and to sponsor FOCUS training for students and teachers.• K.A.P.P.'s (Kids Against Prescription Pills) a program given to middle school students by the Covington Co. Drug Task Force each spring.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional funding and partners that are interested in promoting our mission of reducing alcohol and drug use among our youth.• Continuing to implement an aggressive media campaign about the reality of youth substance abuse in Covington County and making parents more aware of local statistics.• Funding for Peer Helpers to purchase training supplies such as: videos, reward items, posters, etc., to be used in our schools.• Additional funding for the PRIDE Survey to be given every year in all of our schools.

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Having Peer Helper/Character Education 'classes' in all 6 high schools.
2. Additional promotion of the youth designed and implemented counter advertising campaign to promote the fact that most students do not use drugs utilizing the 'Get Real' poster campaign in current technology and social networks, such as Face book, and You Tube.
3. Continue to support all 3 school systems to randomly drug test select students enrolled in a voluntary drug testing pool.
4. STOP grant (applied for March 2013)

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Second Priority

Need related to children of this county

Increase parental awareness of alcohol and drug use among youth.

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All 3 school systems in Covington County take the Pride Survey every other year or every year.• Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant:• Providing substance abuse prevention billboards across Covington County to educate parents and families of the dangers of drug use.• Pledge and Patch Program 'parent portion' whereby parents are asked on a voluntary basis to sign pledges to not allow underage drinking in their homes, to lock up alcohol and prescription drugs in their homes, and to welcome other parents to call and question when entertaining youth in their homes.• Continuation of the Religious Leader's Symposium every fall whereby area pastors and youth leaders are given the latest PRIDE Survey results to take back to their congregations in order to make parents more aware of youth substance abuse in our county.• Prescription Pill Take-Back programs coordinated with the Covington County Drug Task Force, Andalusia Regional Hospital, and the Alabama Clean Water Program.• The ABC Board Enforcement Division often speaks to parent groups informing them of the dangers of underage drinking.• The CPC sponsored Brent Cosby, a Certified Counselor, to present "Parenting 101" to PTOs and other gatherings for parents at several of the middle schools and high schools in our county.• The Andalusia High School Peer Helpers sponsored two Ole Pete Key programs for	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentations and programs for parents in order for them to gain needed information concerning substance abuse among youth and recent PRIDE Survey results.• Funding for additional billboards and marketing techniques to increase parental awareness.• A STOP Grant in Covington County (applied for March 2013).

parents and students which focused on goal setting and remaining alcohol and drug free.	
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'The Parent Project,' offered through the Covington County Mental Health Department.• The DARE Program is offered to students in the 5th graders across our county by the Covington County Sheriff's Department. | |
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Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Religious Leader's Symposium promoted and attended by more of the churches and faith leaders in our county.
2. Prescription Pill Take-back Programs promoted in all six small incorporated cities/towns, three distinct 'rural school' communities, and numerous 'church' communities spread over Covington County.
3. Coalition members participating in opportunities to speak at area programs and events promoting our mission of increasing parental awareness about youth substance abuse.

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Third Priority

Need related to children of this county

Easy transition from home to school.

Existing resources available to help meet this need include:	Resources needed but unavailable to meet this need include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imagination Library Program-Year 3.• Promoting Zero-Five Parenting Kits from the Alabama Partnership For Children.• Several Head Start programs throughout the county.• Bright Beginnings Program in Andalusia.• 'Pre-K Program' in Covington County: Red Level Preschool offered through the State of Alabama's Office of School Readiness.• Kids-N-KIN Programs throughout Covington County.• Early Intervention: Birth-Three Program.• Healthy Childcare Alabama targeting day cares, faith-based centers, family homes, and group homes.• The Covington County Extension Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imagination Library Program to be continued indefinitely beyond third year.• To include the 'Parenting Skills' video/CD' narrated by Alabama's First Lady in all Partnership For Children 'parenting kits' given out at Andalusia Regional Hospital Birth Center.

Action steps that will result in progress toward meeting the identified need:

1. Continue promoting Imagination Library by the nursing staff to new parents at birth center as well as to all organizations and civic groups in Covington County.